(a) whether Government plan to remove the system of disposal of nightsoil by hand by scavengers in traditional way;

(b) the number of villages in each State in which the system still exists;

(c) the time bound programme to remove the system;

(d) whether there is any scheme to rehabilitate the scavengers who have left scavening and if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount spent on assistance for the rehabilitation programme by the Central Government and State Governments; and

(f) the number of scavengers that have taken advantage of the scheme uptill now?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Data on number of villages in each State having dry latrine system is not maintained at the Central level. Information received from State Government also indicates that such information is not readily available.

(c) National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of scavengers was launched in March, 1992 to eliminate this system by the end of Eighth Plan period *i.e.* 31st March, 1997.

(d) Yes, Madam. The scheme provides for:

—Time bound programme for identification of scavengers and their dependents and their aptitude for alternative trades through survey.

—Training in identified trades. Trainees are provided stipend at TRYSEM rates.

—The financial package for the rehabilitation provides for investment of upto Rs. 50,000/-. The capital subsidy of Rs. 10,000/- or 50% of the project cost whichever is less is provided by the Central Government. In addition, margin money loan of 15% of the project cost at concessional rate of interest of 4% is also provided. There is provision for Bank Loan for the remaining amount under the concessional DRI scheme to the beneficiaries.

(c) The Government of India has released Rs. 345.2 crores to the State Govts. for training and rehabilitation of scavengers, upto March, 1996.

(f) 1,24,370 scavengers were rehabilitated upto 31.3.95. The target for rehabilitation for the year 1995-96 was to rehabilitate 1,22,000 scavengers. It is expected that another 1,00,000 scavengers would be rehabilitated during the year 1996-97.

Export of textile machinery

800. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign exchange earned through the export of textile machinery during 1994-95; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of textile machinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The total value of foreign exchange earned through export of textile machinery during 1994-95 has been Rs. 197.19 crores.

(b) Promotion of exports has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures taken to boost exports of engineering goods including textile machinery, consist of various incentives under the Export-Import Policy including Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Speical Import Licence, Duty Drawback Scheme, exemption under Section 80 HHC of income Tax Act, assistance from Market Development Fund. Engineering goods exporters also receive promotional support under the various activities of the Engineering Export Promotion Council.